(ii) One hundred percent in the case of formulations specified in Category-II of the said Schedule.

The manufacturers are required to adjust their profitability as well as expenses within the given MAPE. It is quite possible that in the cases of new products, the marketing campaign expenses might be on the higher side, at launching stage.

Transmission loss in supply of Electricity

804. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the transmission loss in supply of electricity in India is higher as compared to the advanced countries ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) in what manner Government propose to minimise this transmission loss ;

(d) whether Government have undertaken any project in this regard ; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Transmission and Distribution losses in India are about 22% which are comparatively high as compared to other advanced countries in the world, where these losses have been ranging between 6·11%.

(c) to (e) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the Power Utilities for reducing the losses. These include *inter-alia*, conducting energy audit for identifying the system elements responsible for excessive losses, installing capacitors to improve the voltage profile, preparation of system improvement schemes for strengthening and improvement of their transmission and distribution systems, installing tamperproof meter boxes to check theft of energy and setting up vigilance squads to detect cases of theft of energy. The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the provisions of Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. An Incentive Scheme was introduced by the Govt. of India with effect from the year 1987 for bringing about reduction in the Transmission and Distribution losses.

Based on the guidelines the Power Utilities have set up vigilance squads and have been formulating system improvement schemes to strengthen and improve their transmission and distribution systems. 19898 persons were prosecuted and punished with fine or imprisonment or both, during the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 for pilferage of energy. Prosecutions for the theft of energy were launched against 2023 persons during the year 1987-88. System Improvement Schemes in respect of 29 major urban areas have been prepared and these are under various stages of clearances/implementation.

Increase in the prices of Homoeopathic and Biochemic Medicines

805. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of manifold increase in the prices of Homoeopathic and Biochemic medicines during the last five years ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to control the prices of these medicines and render these within the reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) and (b) Under the Drug Price Control Order, 1987 homoeopathic drugs are not controlled for prices. Moreover, no specific instance of manifold increase in prices of such drugs has come to the notice of the Government.

Ban on Destruction of female foetus by Medical practitioners

806. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government are aware that tests for sex determination are being carried out by medical practitioners to destroy the female foetus ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to check this malice ;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act to put a complete ban on destruction of female foetus and determination of sex ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) We are aware about the sex determination test being carried out by medical practitioners. However, the nexus between this test and female foeticide has not been conclusively proved.

(b) to (d) A proposal for legislation relating to Sex Determination and for amendment of the MTP Act, 1971 is under consideration of the Government. Final decision in the matter has yet to be taken.

Landing Facilities at Airports

807. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a deatth of landing facilities in most of the airports for smooth landing of sophisticated aeroplanes and aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being proposed by Government to modernise it in view of recent air disasters of high magnitude?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN):(a) and (b)While our airports have the essential ground facilities it is true that many of our airport, require modernisation and upgradation. Such upgradation and modernisation of ground facilities is an ongoing process involving heavy investment in equipment, manpower and maintenance. The upgradation and modernisation of the ground facilities available at our airports is constantly receiving the attention of the Government.

Closure of loss incurring public sector undertakings

808. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering the